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REGIONAL POPULATION PROGRAMME, 1984-1987
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CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	ACTIVITIES	2
	1. Demographic statistics and estimates of population trends	4
	2. Population and development	5
	3. Teaching and training	7
	4. Population documentation and demographic data processing	8
	5. Publications	10

/I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

The Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) has provided services in the field of population to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the last 26 years. It was set up in Santiago in August 1957 under a technical assistance agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Chile. Under an agreement with the Costa Rican Government and the University of Costa Rica signed in 1967, a regional office of CELADE was set up in San José with the main task of looking after the needs of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

The initial aims of CELADE were to meet the needs of the countries at that time, which consisted mainly of the training of demographers, technical assistance in demography and statistics, and the initiation of population studies in the region. During the last decade, however, the international attitude to the subject of population, and especially that of the governments of Latin America, has undergone a very significant evolution as a result of the growing awareness of the consequences of population dynamics for economic and social development.

In response to the new requirements which arose, in 1975 the governments of the region, through the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), gave CELADE a sounder institutional structure by integrating it into the ECLA system as a permanent institution with its own identity (resolution 346 of the Committee of the Whole, Mexico City, March 1975). At the same time, ECLA entrusted CELADE with the execution of the whole of the United Nations population programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), a specialized body set up under resolution 310 (XIV) of the Commission, is responsible for specific functions of guidance and consultation with regard to CELADE's activities in the field of population (resolution 357)).

CEGAN held its First Meeting on Population in Quito, Ecuador, in March 1979, when it made specific recommendations for CELADE's activities in the region. In pursuance of the agreement adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA in New York in December 1982, CEGAN will hold its Second Meeting on Population in Havana, Cuba, from 16 to 21 November 1983.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Latin American Regional Population Programme is to assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the knowledge of their demographic situation and in the formulation and evaluation of development plans and programmes in the field of population, by creating the capacities, knowledge and inputs needed for this purpose. The Programme aims to achieve this objective through technical co-operation, training, selected studies, population information and the transfer of technology.

/The specific

The specific objectives of the ECLA/CELADE Regional Population Programme were laid down by the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) at its First Meeting on Population (Quito, 12-14 March 1979), as follows:

1) To foster understanding in the different areas of national life of the nature and importance of the mutual relations between the demographic, socioeconomic and environmental factors of development;
2) To develop and improve the continuing capacity of the countries to organize and implement population censuses and surveys (including the processing of data and their publication);
3) To develop and promote improvement of the quality of population statistics, their adaptation to the needs of economic and social planning, and analytical techniques and methods for making better use of them;
4) To maintain up-to-date basic information on the situation and prospects of the demographic evolution of the countries of the region;
5) To promote and carry out research projects aimed at clarifying the interrelation between population and development, especially in connection with quantifying the determinants and consequences of population dynamics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, bearing in mind the differing sub-national regional systems and social groups;
6) To develop analytical tools, adapted to the conditions of the countries of the region, for the incorporation of demographic variables into the planning process;
7) To promote and develop the preparation of conceptual frameworks (including objectives, targets and instruments) and inputs for formulating, implementing and evaluating population policies and programmes;
8) To stimulate, maintain and improve the training of professionals in demographic analysis and population topics, including specific fields;
9) To publish studies, manuals and other technical reports and disseminate them among the public of the different countries; and
10) To keep up a flow of data and documentation on population matters in Latin America.

II. ACTIVITIES

During the period 1984-1986, within the framework of the Regional Population Programme, CELADE will be responsible for the promotion, organization and execution of activities in the fields of technical co-operation, training, research and information aimed at helping to develop national capacities as regards human resources, technology and institutional organization with a view to increasing the utilization of the countries' own resources in the field of population. The programme of work will be carried out from CELADE headquarters in Santiago, with the support of the regional office in San José, Costa Rica, for the Central American and Caribbean area and the participation of a demographer specially stationed in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, for the English-speaking Caribbean.

/Among the

Among the main objectives of the Second Meeting on Population of CEGAN will be that of collecting the suggestions and guidelines put forward by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to define the elements of the Regional Population Programme to be carried out by CELADE in the period 1984-1987. For this reason, the programme of work which CELADE is submitting for the consideration of the countries on this occasion only sketches the main lines of action on the basis of the needs foreseen in the region for the next four years, with special attention to the opening up of new areas of concern, more complex approaches to the understanding of the situation, and the growing introduction of technology in the field of population.

In view of the wide extent and complexity of the problems, CELADE's action during this period will necessarily be selective and concentrative as regards the nature of the objectives and the co-ordination of the Programme's execution both with the activities carried out by the countries themselves and with those of other international agencies. Many of the activities foreseen in the Programme cover fields of work that most countries are not in a position to undertake by themselves, either for reasons of cost, specialization of human resources or because they transcend the national scope. In addition to their regional orientation, these activities will be complemented with the efforts and tasks carried out by the countries at their respective national levels in the field of population. Thus, many of the activities put forward are the result of agreements signed with the countries whereby the national institutions request advisory assistance in connection with specific tasks within the framework of their own programmes.

Most of the financial support for the execution of the Regional Population Programme in the period 1984-1987 will come from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the regular budget of the United Nations, with substantial contributions from other donors such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of the Netherlands, and a significant contribution from the countries for a considerable number of specific activities.

In order to respond more effectively to the requests of the countries, as well as for reasons of institutional efficiency, the activities to be carried out during the period 1984-1987 have been grouped in five subprogrammes, as follows:

1) Demographich statistics and estimates of population trends
2) Population and development
3) Teaching and training
4) Population documentation and demographic data processing
5) Publications.

A brief description of the objectives and purposes of each subprogramme is given below, together with an outline of the activities which CELADE proposes to carry out within the framework of each of these subprogrammes in the course of the next four years.

/1. Demographic

1. Demographic statistics and estimates of population trends

The main objectives of this subprogramme are to prepare updated reports on the present demographic situation and future prospects of the region; to promote the use of appropriate methods for improving the quality and degree of exploitation of the available demographic information; to help to develop national research capacities through experimental censuses and surveys; and to carry out studies on fertility, mortality and internal and international migration, as well as to evaluate the demographich effects of family planning programmes.

With the aim of incorporating demographic variables in economic and social planning, and especially for the formulation of population policies, it is necessary to prepare and keep up to date demographic estimates and population projections either for the whole of the country or for population subgroups. For this reason, whenever new information or new methods suited to the conditions of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean become available, the existing demographic estimates and projections are accordingly reviewed. These tasks are carried out both at CELADE Santiago and in San José and Port of Spain. Most of the activities in this subprogramme are carried out jointly, through agreements with national institutions such as Statistical Offices and Censuses or Planning Offices, with the dual purpose of disseminating the demographic methods which are most appropriate for each particular country and ensuring that the estimates and projections prepared are officially adopted both by the countries and by the United Nations.

During the next four years, as a result of the work of this subprogramme, the Boletín Demográfico will continue to be published twice yearly, as well as the new series of Fascículos de Población for each country, in collaboration with the corresponding national institutions.

The following specific activities will be carried out as part of the subprogramme in this area during the period 1984-1987:

1.1 Advisory assistance in the estimation of levels, trends and differentials of demographic variables in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

1.1.1 Technical assistance and collaboration in demographic surveys and activities related with population censuses (for the analysis of the results of the 1980s censuses, CELADE will provide technical assistance through agreements with practically all the countries of the region and will provide advisory assistance to those which so request in the execution of demographic surveys).

1.1.2 Advisory assistance in the preparation of estimates and levels, trends and differentials of fertility, mortality and domestic and international migration (CELADE carries out this work on a continuous basis for each of the countries of the region, in most cases through technical assistance agreements with the countries).

/1.1.3 Investigation

1.1.3 Investigation of infant mortality in Latin America (IMIAL) (during the period in question, taking advantages of the results of the 1980s censuses, similar studies to those already carried out on the basis of data from the 1970s censuses will be made. It is planned to hold a seminar in 1985 to examine the results of the studies completed by that date).

1.1.4 Investigation of fertility levels, trends and differentials through the "own-children method" (IFHIPAL) (as in the previous case, the data from the 1980s censuses will be used to carry out these studies, and a seminar is planned for 1984 to present the results of some of these studies).

1.1.5 Studies on internal and international migration (during this period, studies on international migration (IMILA) will continue, methods will be developed to measure the flow and sex and age patterns of international migration, and studies will be initiated on internal migration in various countries on the basis of census data (IMIN)).

1.2 Evaluation of the demographic effects of family planning programmes

1.2.1 Annual report on family planning activities in Latin America (these reports unite in a single volume information on the family planning activities in the countries).

2. Population and development

The general objective of this subprogramme is to assist the countries of the region to study the determining factors and economic and social consequences of population dynamics, to help them to integrate population variables in planning instruments and processes, and to provide assistance to them in the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policies concentrating on priority areas where population plays an important role, such as population distribution and urban concentration, the growth of demand for social services and jobs, and the impact of specific government actions.

In particular, this subprogramme proposes to give technical assistance to the countries of the region through:

a) Studies on the interrelations between population and economic and social development, designed to achieve a fuller knowledge of the determining factors and consequences of population growth and distribution and to evaluate the demographic effects of public policies;

b) Technical analysis aimed at the preparation of guidelines for the effective use of demographic inputs in the different stages of the planning process;

/c) Support

c) Support services for strengthening the institutions responsible for the formulation and co-ordination of population policies and the incorporation of demographic variables in planning.

World and regional meetings on population, especially since the Bucharest Conference and the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action, have repeatedly stressed the importance of the relations between demographic processes and economic and social change. Recognizing that the solution of the problems which arise cannot be sought exclusively through policies explicitly designed to affect demographic variables, these meetings have recommended the formulation of policies oriented towards the social, economic and cultural determinants of these variables. Consequently, population policies should be conceived as an integral part of the global process of development planning.

In the conclusions of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population, held in Mexico City in 1975, a number of complex technical co-operation, research and training activities which should be carried out in order to incorporate demographic variables in planning were identified. More recently, the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), at its First Meeting on Population, held in Quito in 1979, formulated recommendations regarding the tasks which should be undertaken by the countries and CELADE in this field.

The activities which CELADE proposes to carry out within the framework of this subprogramme during the period 1984-1987 are based on the priorities laid down at the meetings in question, taking particular account of the experience accumulated in carrying out these tasks through the technical co-operation given to the countries of the region. Most of these activities will be carried out jointly with the national institutions responsible for the formulation and co-ordination of global, regional and sectoral programmes in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2.1 Studies and analyses of the determinants and consequences of population dynamics. These are needed for the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policies integrated into development plans

2.1.1 Studies on the economic and social determinants of fertility, mortality and family planning.
2.1.2 Analysis of trends in population distribution and urban concentration.
2.1.3 Analysis of the economic and social consequences deriving from population trends.
2.1.4 Evaluation of the demographic effects of public actions connected with population.

2.2 Guidelines for the incorporation of population variables in development planning

2.2.1 Guidelines to aid national and regional development planners in considering population-related factors when formulating development plans.

/2.3 Promotion

2.3 Promotion and strengthening of national public institutions dealing with population dynamics and its relation with economic and social development

2.3.1 Technical assistance for the establishment and strengthening of technical units in the countries

3. Teaching and training

The central objective of this subprogramme is to train national personnel in the field of population through diversified programmes specially designed to meet the needs of the countries. In order to achieve this objective, CELADE will provide training in demographic analysis, specific techniques applied to the study of population, and interdisciplinary studies -especially in the field of the interrelations between population and development- through the following activities: Master's degree programme; regional and national intensive courses; national courses on the use of demographic inputs in economic and social planning; regional courses on electronic data processing and the use of microcomputers as applied to population topics; national seminars on recent demographic technique as applied to census or survey data; research fellows; and courses in collaboration with other institutions.

Although a wide variety of situations are displayed in Latin America as regards the degree of concern with population matters, the stability of the institutions dealing with demographic subjects, and the availability and quality of basic census data and of qualified human resources in these fields, the demand for opportunities for training in demographic analysis and in the study of the relations with the development process has not only increased in quantitative terms but has also greatly diversified as regards the type of courses and specializations requested from CELADE by the countries.

In response to the new and growing needs expressed by governments in recent years, CELADE has expanded and diversified its training activities with the aim of giving access to a larger number of students from the region and offering a wider range of training opportunities. This training policy, which will be consolidated in the years to come, is based on the mandates -given by governments during the most recent regional consultations and subsequently repeated individually by various countries- to the effect that high priority should be given to CELADE training programmes, particularly in view of the fact that CELADE is the only regional institution which provides these services.

The training subprogramme for the period 1984-1987 has been prepared in the light of the recommendations of governments, the priorities identified for the next four years, and CELADE's capacity in terms of its teaching staff and resource availability, especially as regards fellowships. The subprogramme includes training activities of different types, each of them having specific purposes and being aimed at candidates who, it is expected, will play an active role in the countries in their respective fields of activity.

/3.1 Master's

3.1 Master's degree programme in demography and Master's degree programme in social population studies (two-year programme, open to all the countries of the region and given at CELADE Santiago).

3.2 Regional and national intensive courses on demography (the regional courses which last for four months, are given annually at CELADE San José or, in the case of the English-speaking Caribbean, every two years; the national courses are given in the countries which request them and last an average of twelve weeks).

3.3 National courses on the use of demographic inputs in economic and social planning (an ongoing activity which is offered in the countries through agreements with national institutions, with each course lasting an average of three to four weeks).

3.4 Research fellows programme (ongoing activity at CELADE Santiago and San José, in which the fellowship holders, under CELADE supervision, carry out research projects on subjects of priority interest for the national institution sponsoring them, the average length of each fellow's work being from six to fifteen weeks).

3.5 Regional courses on electronic data processing and the use of microcomputers as applied to population subjects (CELADE Santiago and San José; average length of courses two to four weeks).

3.6 National seminars on recent demographic techniques as applied to census and survey data (regional seminar held at CELADE San José and national seminars held by agreement with institutions in the countries, each seminar lasting an average of three to four weeks).

3.7 Collaboration in training activities of other national and international institutions (for the period concerned, CELADE has already undertaken to collaborate with the University of Costa Rica and the University of Buenos Aires, as well as with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)).

4. Population documentation and demographic data processing

The objectives of this subprogramme are to assist national institutions in the organization and utilization of the population information required for development projects and action programmes, and to facilitate the exchange of technology and research results among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with other regions of the world. In the area of data processing, technical co-operation and backstopping will be provided to the countries in the processing of census and survey data, and technology based on microcomputers will be adapted to enable national technical and non-technical personnel to have at their disposal geographically disaggregated information and other population data. The Latin American Population Documentation System (CELADE/DOCPAL) will provide backstopping services from its computerized data base and will assist national agencies to improve their population information services through simplified procedures using manual means or microcomputers.

/National institutions

National institutions must be in a position to retrieve and process population data and make them available for action programmes. Furthermore, national administrators and officials responsible for planning and policy formulation need technology and population information suitable for the adoption of soundly based decisions regarding development programmes and projects. Since both resources and qualified programmers and documentalists in the field of population are very scarce in most of the government institutions of the region, CELADE proposes to use technology based partly on microcomputers in order to permit both demographers and other non-specialized personnel to make more intensive use of population data relatively independently of the intervention of specialists. Likewise, bearing in mind that the users of population information are widely dispersed over a variety of government agencies and other institutions, special emphasis will be placed both on providing technical and non-technical information and on the training "at a distance" of a large number of national personnel.

All the activities to be carried out in this subprogramme during the period 1984-1987 will be executed in close collaboration with the national institutions using demographic data and population documentation, especially statistical and planning offices and also Ministries of education, labour and housing.

4.1 Demographic data processing and data bank

4.1.1 Technical assistance and backstopping to national institutions, especially in connection with the processing of the 1980s population censuses.

4.1.2 Development of a user-oriented integrated package for the processing of censuses and surveys, capable of being used on the large variety of computers which exist in the region.

4.1.3 Development of a system of retrieval of geographically disaggregated data for development planning (REDATA project).

4.1.4 Use of microcomputers for the analysis and projection of population data and national action programme.

4.1.5 Utilization of systems for the production of population data graphs for national officials responsible for the formulation of policies and the taking of decisions.

4.1.6 Training "at a distance" of users through video cassettes and self-training using computers.

4.1.7 Regional training courses for programmers and demographers (see also subprogramme 3.5). Two participants, a programmer and a substantive analyst, will be invited from each national institution to take part in specialization courses designed, inter alia, to provide training in the use of microcomputers as a routine working tool. In order to achieve a multiplier effect it is hoped that each pair of participants will give a seminar in their respective national institutions on their return.

/4.2 Latin

4.2 Latin American Population Documentation System (CELADE/DOCPAL)

4.2.1 Assistance to countries of the region in the establishment and strengthening of national population documentation units, and backstopping services from the computerized data base of the CELADE/DOCPAL system, through interactive searches, dispatch of documents at the request of users, and the semi-annual publication of the abstract journal "DOCPAL Resúmenes".

4.2.2 Development of simplified DOCPAL procedures for application to microcomputers or for manual operation in national units.

4.2.3 Production of microfiches of documents from the DOCPAL data base in order to facilitate the return of the information to the countries.

4.2.4 Exchange of bibliographical information with national, regional and international institutions.

4.2.5 Selective dissemination of information for national projects and institutions and other users.

4.2.6 Preparation of national guides on population information sources.

5. Publications

The objective of this subprogramme is to disseminate technical and scientific literature on population in Latin America and the Caribbean through the publication in Spanish of specialized material including books, monographs and periodical publications.

This subprogramme is the natural consequence of the tasks which CELADE carries out in the fields of technical co-operation, training and research. These activities would have a very limited impact if the results of the studies carried out by the specialized staff of CELADE, national researchers and fellowship holders, as well as the joint efforts made in conjunction with national institutions, were not widely circulated. For this reason, there has been a constant concern to publish and disseminate the intellectual output of CELADE ever since it was set up in 1957. Furthermore, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown increasing interest during the last decade in population matters and related problems. The demand of the countries for specialized literature on population has been only partly satisfied, however, in spite of the increase in the publication of books, journals, monographs and other printed matter. This problem is particularly important in the case of the government institutions responsible for development planning.

During the period 1984-1987, CELADE will try to meet the specific needs of the national institutions for population literature through the following activities:

5.1 Periodical publications. As part of this activity, three journals and a series of population fascicles will be published as follows:

/Boletín Demográfico.

Boletín Demográfico. This is a semi-annual, bilingual (Spanish and English) publication which provides up-to-date statistical information on population estimates and projections as well as on the main demographic indicators for each country of the region.
Notas de Población. This journal is published every four months in Spanish, with summaries in English, and is designed to disseminate scientific and technical articles prepared by Latin American researchers and specialists from other regions.
DOCPAL Resúmenes. This is a semi-annual publication in Spanish which gives bibliographical information and summaries of population documents referring to Latin America and the Caribbean.
Fascículos de Población. This new series, which is published jointly with national institutions, consists of fascicles presenting the basic population projections for each country, i.e., national urban and rural projections, and the economically active population in urban and rural areas, by age and sex. The purpose of these fascicles is to disseminate among national users in Latin America and the Caribbean the official population estimates and projections for each country.

5.2 Books and monographs

Books. These books are designed to disseminate in Spanish works of fundamental importance in the field of population, including translations of books published in other languages. Two books per year will be published during the period 1984-1987.
Monographs. The aim of this series is to disseminate the most important results of CELADE's research work, training material, translations of methodological articles, and other relevant material. Some 15 monographs per year will be published, 6 of which will be joint publications with national institutions.